

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY SIMON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, IN (SIMON, WILLIAM E.)

SUBJECT: YOUR VISIT TO INDIA: ISSUES WHICH MAY ARISE

1. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE WHOLE RANGE OF MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL AND ENERGY ISSUES OF SUCH KEY IMPORTANCE TO INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES. I PRESUME YOUR SPEECH IN BOMBAY WILL ALSO CONCENTRATE ON THESE MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

2. THE INDIANS ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE MANY SPECIFIC IDEAS OF THEIR OWN. FREQUENTLY THEY TEND TO SEE ENERGY ISSUES MUCH AS WE DO BUT ARE FRIGHTENED OF BECOMING ISOLATED FROM THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY PACK. ON MONETARY ISSUES THEY ARE REALLY MUCH MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN THEIR RHETORIC WOULD INDICATE THOUGH THEY WILL TAKE THE TRADITIONAL POSITIONS ON SDR-AID LINKS, SOFT LOAN WINDOWS, ECT. WHICH MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

3. MORE GENERALLY, THEY WANT TO BE REASSURED THAT THE US IS STILL INTERESTED IN FINDING MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS WHICH WILL ASSIST INDIA IN ITS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT THE US IS WITHDRAWING FROM THE WORLD AND PARTICULARLY FROM ANY INTEREST IN SOUTH ASIA. IN THEIR MORE PARANOID MOMENTS THEY ENVISAGE ACTIVE USG HOSTILITY TOWARDS INDIA WHETHER THROUGH ARMS TO PAKISTAN,
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CIA ACTIVITIES OR OTHERWISE. I WOULD HOPE YOU WOULD

SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AND EXPLAIN SOME OF THE FACTORS THAT GO INTO US ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE THIRD WORLD AND INDIA IN SPECIFIC. I HOPE THAT THE UPBEAT POSHVE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION FOR MUTUAL, RPT MUTUAL BENEFIT WOULD DOMINATE.

4. WE KNOW OF NO MAJOR BLATERAL ISSUES THAT ARE LIKELY TO ARISE OTHER THAN DEBT RESCHEDULING. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN OUR REPORT (NEW DELHI'S 4403) ON WORKING LEVEL REACTION TO OUR CURRNET POSITION. IF INDEED OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES CAN BE PERSUADED TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT US AND THE WORLD BANK COOPERATES WE MAY BE OUT OF THE WOODS ON THIS ONE. THESE WILL STILL BE SOME HIGH LEVEL DOUBTS AS TO OUR MOTIVATION AND I HOPE YOU WILL LAY THESE TO REST. I THINK THAT THE STRESS SHOULD BE ON OUR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND WE SHOULD AVOID TRYING TO GUILD THE LILY BY SAYING HOW GOOD OUR POLICIES ARE FOR INDIA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE AGRUMENT THAT DEEMPHASIZING DEBT RESCHEDULING WOULD FACILITATE OPEC COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IS RATHER BARREN SINCE INDIA KNOWS OF NO OPEC COUNTRY LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE. WE HOPE THAT OUR APPROACH CAN BE ONE THAT "WE ARE TRYING THIS APPROACH OUT AND THINK IT WILL WORK BUT WE ARE NOT SLAMMING ANY DOORS".

5. DOLLY AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON.
SAXBE

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